

Effects of the Enlightenment – Grade Nine

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Attachment F

Sample Answers to Key Questions

A. Even though the Protestant Reformation weakened the Catholic Church, Europeans continued to rely on religion for answers to many questions.

- How did rationalism and the idea of natural law change how the peoples of Europe solved problems?
- What effect does this have on the Catholic Church as well as the Protestant denominations?

Rationalism stresses reason over religious belief as the source of truth. Natural law stresses principles found in nature over religious morals as guides to people's behavior. The people of Europe who practiced enlightened thinking did not need to look to God for answers to questions about the world. Neither of these two belief systems requires faith in God or reliance on the Catholic or Protestant churches; therefore religious influence was diminished.

B. Monarchs in Europe believed in the divine right of kings and absolutism.

- What ideas were proposed by Montesquieu, Rousseau and Locke that contradicted absolutism?
- Think about different ways monarchs could respond to these new ideas. *Montesquieu proposed that the powers of a government should be separated between different branches to avoid tyranny. Rousseau argued that governments should be freely formed by the people and that governments should work for the good of all and should exist with the consent of the governed. Locke outlined rights held by the people and said the government should protect those rights. He also argued that if a government fails in this task, the people have the right to replace the government.*

Possible responses by monarchs include:

- 1. Kill or imprison all people who disagree with the monarch.*
- 2. Agreement to give up absolutism and complete power in a country.*
- 3. Blend absolutism with the ideas of enlightened thinkers. This is called enlightened despotism and some rulers did choose this, most notably Catherine the Great, Frederick II of Prussia, and Joseph II of Austria.*

C. Spain, France and Great Britain are all examples of countries that practiced mercantilism. They believed that whichever country had the most gold and silver was also the strongest country. Each country worked very hard at controlling other countries' access and ability to trade with them or their colonies. They imposed high tariffs (tax on imports) or banned goods from being sold that were made in another country.

- What ideas did Adam Smith have that contradicted mercantile policies?
- Describe a country's economic trade policy if it followed the free enterprise model proposed by Adam Smith.

Adam Smith believed in free enterprise. Countries should compete by seeing whose products would be sold in an open market. When the government tries to regulate or control supply and demand, then the market becomes less efficient.

If a country practiced Adam Smith's ideas it would lower tariffs with other countries and ask them to do the same. It would wish to sell its products in other countries and hope that its own country's products would be sold at home.